

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOAMES PRAISES US/EC RELATIONS IN FAREWELL PRESS
CONFERENCE

1.DURING THIS FAREWELL PRESS CONFERENCE AS EC COMMISSIONER
FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS ON DECEMBER 21, SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES
SAID HE CONSIDERED THAT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
EC AND THE US WAS ONE OF THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS

DURING HIS FOUR YEARS IN OFFICE IN BRUSSELS.THE EC COUNTRIES
AND THE US,SOAMES ASSERTED,ARE NOW CLOSELY LINKED " AS
THE TWO PILLARS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE."

2. SIR CHRISTOPHER RECALLED THAT IN 1973 THE SPECTRE OF AN
ENLARGED COMMUNITY HAD RAISED CERTAIN ANXIETIES IN THE US
AND FOR THAT MATTER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."PEOPLE WONDERED
WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL IT WOULD BE: MALIGN OR BENIGN"DURING
HIS FIRST VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL
RELATIONS,SOAMES SAID HE SENSED THIS ANXIETY ABOUT WHAT
KIND OF PREFERENTIAL POLICIES THE EC WOULD PURSUE.BUT
MATTERS TURNED OUT FAR BETTER THAN WASHINGTON FEARED IN 1973--
WITNESS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT US-EC RELATIONS
ARE CLOSER THAN EVER NOW.SIR CHRISTOPHER ADDED THAT "OF COURSE
WE HAVE DIFFERENCES,PARTICULARLY OVER AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS,"BUT
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THIS
DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP IS NOT RIGHT."
"WE WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO LIVE THROUGH THEM TOGETHER."

3..AS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT IN THE
COMMUNITY'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS,SIR CHRISTOPHER SINGLED

OUT THE EC'S IMPROVED IMAGE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD--
THROUGH THE LOME CONVENTION,THE GENERALIZED PREFERENCES
SCHEME,AND THE STRIKING INCREASE IN TRADE BETWEEN THE
EC AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD WHICH "IN ITSELF IS A
"REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE NORTH SOUTH DIALOGUE --
PROVIDED TO DOESN'T EXPLODE."

4.IN A GENERALLY POSITIVE AVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S
EXTERNAL RELATIONS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD,SOAMES
SOUNDED ONLY TWO NEGATIVE NOTES.WITH REGARD TO
JAPAN,SIR CHRISTOPHER SAID THERE WAS " CAUSE FOR ANXIETY"BECAUSE
OF THE EC'S FOUR BILLION DOLLAR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT,
A TREND WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE REVERSED -- " AND THIS IS NOW
UNDERSTOOD BY THE PAPANEESE."
ELSEWHERE,SOAMES NOTED THAT " WE HAVE NOT HAD MUCH SUCCESS IN EASTERN
EUROPE,BECAUSE THE COUNTRIES THERE HAVE
LARGELY IGNORED US.IN THIS AREA,WE WILL SIMPLY HAVE
TO WAIT PATIENTLY--THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THEY WILL
HAVE TO MOVE."
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